

February 14, 1974

(start belt #6)

of it. What it will do, if there is some unscrupulous businessmen, if there is someone who is unduly taking advantage of the consumer, it will eliminate this. I think that we want to eliminate any unfair deceptive business practice, that are going on in the state of Nebraska. I don't think that there is a lot of them, as there are not a lot of them in Iowa. Let me...in 1973, let me give you an idea of what the State of Iowa had in the way of complaints and how they were settled and that will give you an idea as to what would happen in the state of Nebraska under this law. But you will have to remember that the number in the state of Nebraska will be less, because our population is considerably less than that of the state of Iowa. In 1973 as I passed this summary out to you, they had 5,000 a little over 5,000 complaints filed in the state of Iowa with the Attorney General's office. They closed their records on 4,300 some of these so they had about 1,000 still pending. Law suits that were filed during that year and this is what some business' are worried about that the Attorney General and that the County Attorney would take them to court too many times, which has been bore out in Iowa that only 20 law suits were filed that whole year of 1973. Twenty gentlemen out of the 5,000 and some complaints, which I think you can see there is no harassment involved in the state of Iowa and I don't think that you would find that in the state of Nebraska especially considering the caliber of men that we will have running for the Attorney General's office. Now the money recovered for the complainant generally speaking for the consumer was over a million dollars in the state of Iowa, a evidentially the Attorney General investigating these cases found that the consumer has been generally taken and it was primarily in the state of Iowa and was in the area of the pyramid sales, or the Glenn Turner enterprises type of sales where he recovered most of his money and he recovered a million dollars for these complaints. Now I passed, and I won't go through this, I pass out a list of complaints that they had during that year, and the number and they give a little you know like aluminum siding advertising equipment supplies and auto and what have you, a whole list of things that they received complaints on, and a number in each category. You can go through that list, I believe that I passed it out two days ago and then it goes on to B, what this disposition was made of the total complaints. If you want to know the cases that actually went to court, I have a list of those too, and I would be glad to go through this with you, if we have the time, or if you want me too. So what I would like to say here, I think that Nebraska needs to establish a consumer protection division within the Attorney General's office to investigate and act on complaints as there is justification there. Presently in the state of Nebraska if there is someone feels, that there has been a problem in the consumer transaction, he has no place to go except to the courts, and mind you gentlemen if it is a small enough amount it is difficult to go to court because of the cost to the employee and employing an attorney. Of course you could immediately say that we have the small claims court which you do not need an attorney, and as a matter of fact you can not have an attorney there. But let me assure you gentlemen that the small claims court was to set up to compromise case, and that is what they are doing. Where a person has been taken for a hundred dollars lets say, why should he have to go to small claims court and take half of that when he has the full amount coming back. I talked to one lady out in Grand Island